

Vacancies in DRT and Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals

2609. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Debt Recovery Tribunals and the Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals functioning in the country;

(b) the number of Presiding Officers and Recovery Officers posted in those tribunals and the vacancies as on 31st December, 2000;

(c) the steps taken to fill the vacancies; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for recovering the debts from the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE FINANCE-PATIL): (a) The number of Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) functioning in the country as on 31st December, 2001 was 20 and 4 respectively.

(b) and (c) The number of posts of Presiding Officers in DRTs and Chairpersons in DRATs as on 31st December, 2000 was 20 and 4 respectively and all these posts stood filled up. With regard to the posts of Recovery Officers (RO) initially there were 20 posts of ROs for 20 DRTs out of which 11 posts stood filled up. Another post of RO per DRT was subsequently sanctioned in June, 2000. The existing vacancies and newly created posts of ROs were circulated and after processing the applications and conducting interaction with the candidates 23 persons were selected on 30th January, 2001. Offers of appointment have been sent to them and most of them have since joined.

(d) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have advised banks to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filling of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debts Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non-performing accounts at various levels in the bank. RBI *vide* its circular dated 27th July, 2000 has framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs. 5 crores and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs.5 crores.